



P.O. Box 1442, Bismarck, N.D. 58502



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Badlands our most iconic feature

The badlands of western North Dakota are the iconic feature of our State. Admired for their wild beauty, and promoted by our Tourism Department, they are North Dakota's signature land form. They are also the most threatened. Of the over one million acres of public lands in the badlands less than 4% remains unavailable for energy development. This fragile landscape has endured for centuries in its low impact grazing use but oil and gas development changes that. This industrialization with its activity, roads, pads, dust, flaring and noise, removes the iconic character of the area. This activity impacts the wildlife, the scenic beauty, and the rural nature of the area. Individuals and organizations in our State have worked for several decades to set aside a unique portion of existing public lands in the badlands in an undeveloped condition to preserve those iconic features. Preserving this small portion of our most outstanding land form will have a minimal impact on energy development and ranching of the area. But now is the time to recognize the importance of this unique landform and act before it is all gone. Therefore, we need to make permanent the preservation of this last remaining piece of our most iconic feature.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: Mike McEnroe, President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (memcenroe@midco.net) or Rick Nelson, President elect, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net).

